

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/090162 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B64G 1/64**, 1/22

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IT2004/000638

(22) International Filing Date:
18 November 2004 (18.11.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
RM2004A000153 24 March 2004 (24.03.2004) IT

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **FIN-
MECCANICA S.P.A.** [IT/IT]; P.zza Monte Grappa, 4,
IT-00195 Roma (IT).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **LICATA, Renato**
[IT/IT]; Corso Cosenza, 87, I-10137 Torino (IT).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

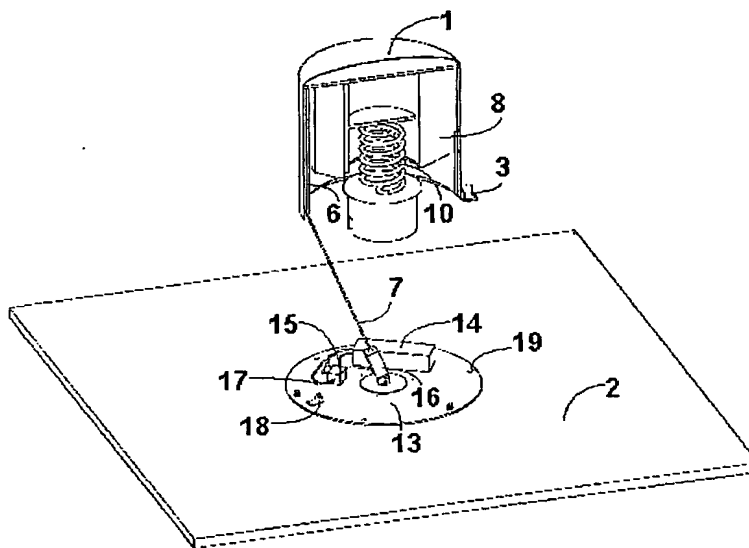
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE,
SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **PASSIVE DEPLOYMENT MECHANISM FOR SPACE TETHERS**



(57) Abstract: Mechanism for passively deploying expendable space tethers (7) on orbit, by means of an initial separation impulse only, provided by a simple spring system (10) that is part of the mechanism itself. The passive deployment of the space tether and a tethered end-mass is provided by the particular mechanism devised, having very low deployment friction and resistance. Tether deployment brake towards the final part of deployment is produced by a daisy-like brake (12), stored within the winding of the fixed tether spool so that it is automatically deployed (opened) and starts its deployment braking or resistance function from a planned point of the tether deployment in space.

WO 2005/090162 A1

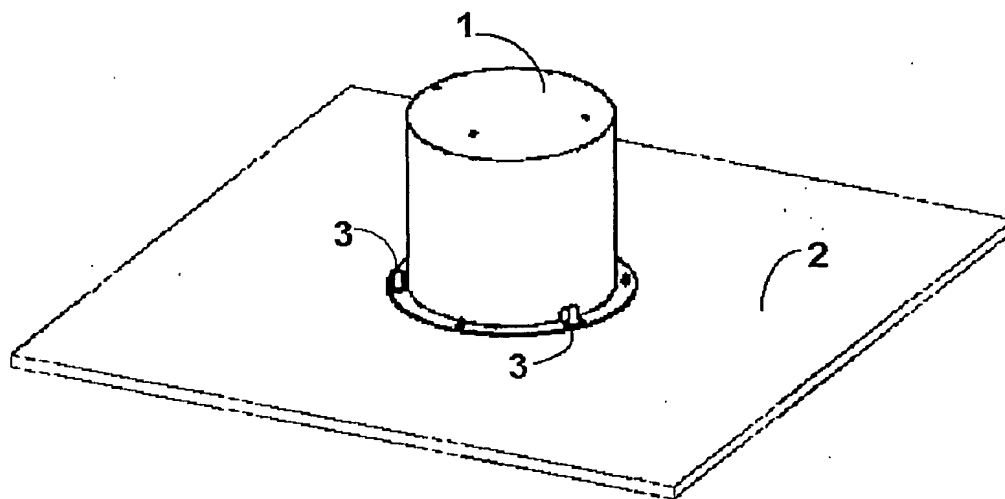


FIGURE 1 (prior art)

2/4

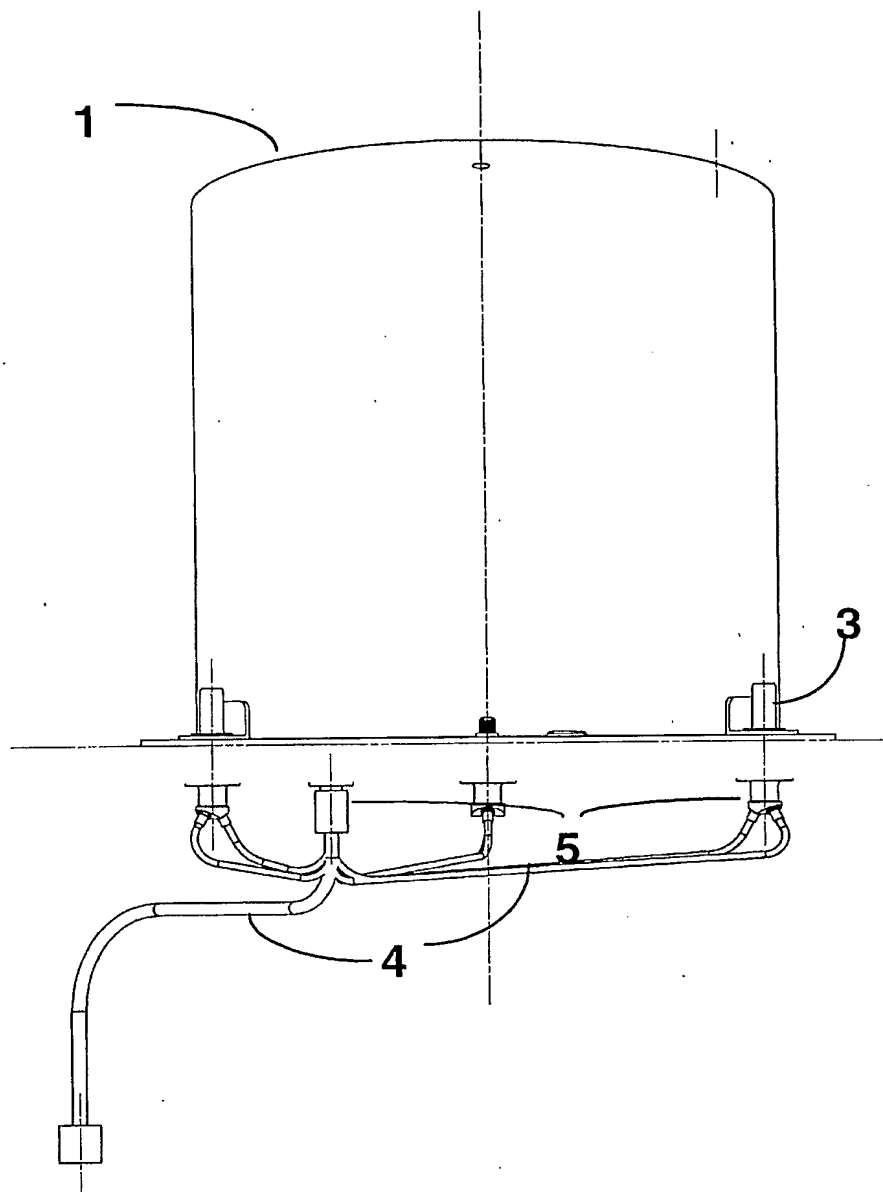


FIGURE 2

3/4

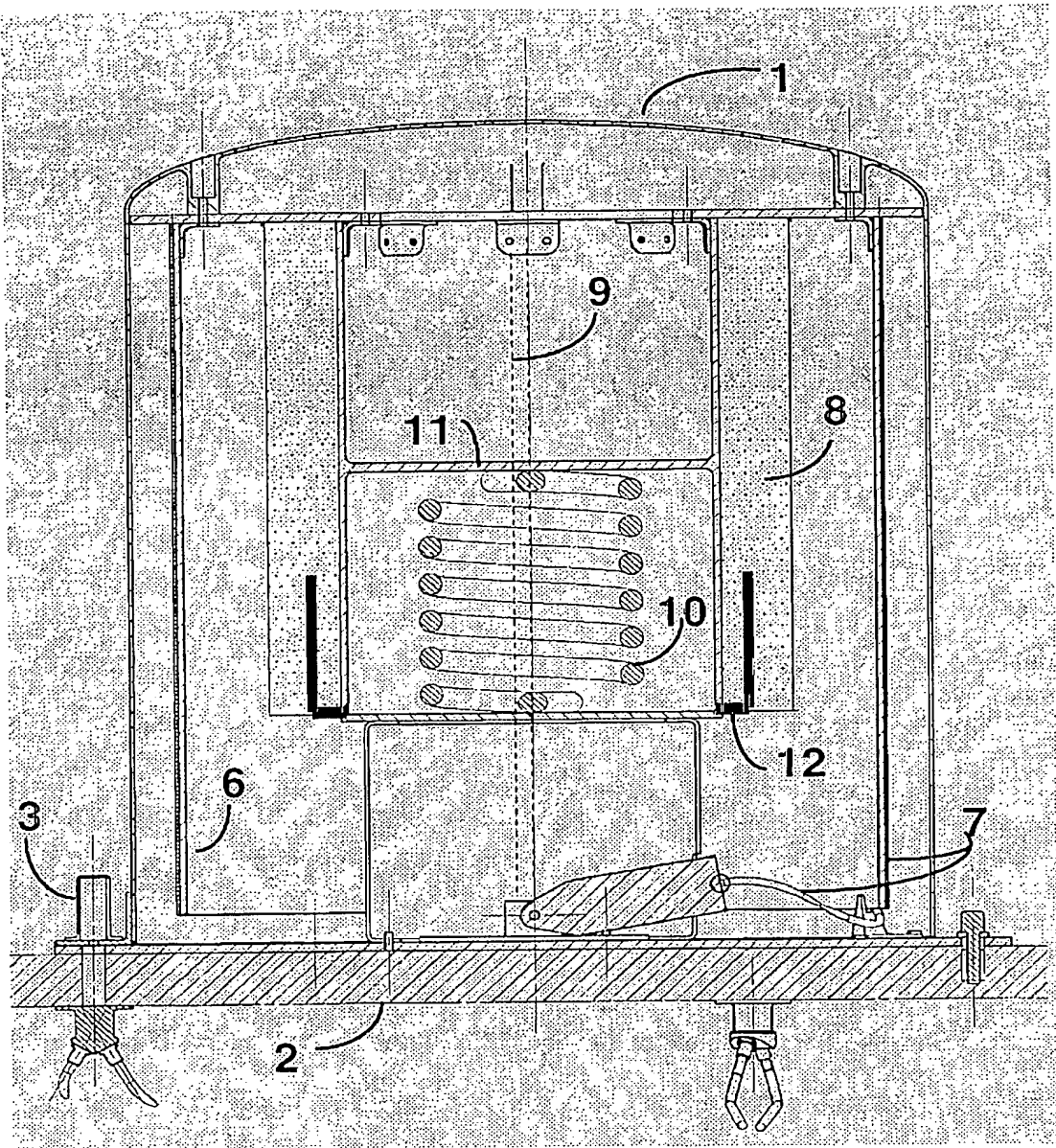


FIGURE 3

4/4

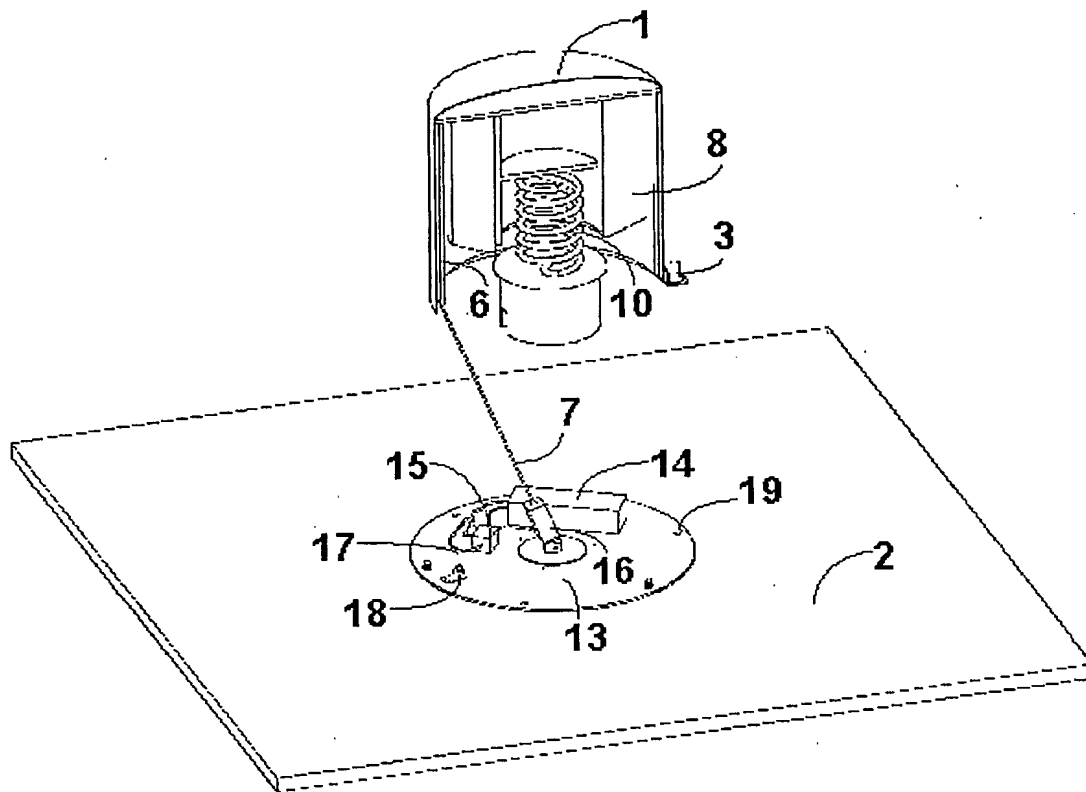


FIGURE 4